# The copie of a letter written by one in London to his frend concernyng the credit of the late publiſhed detection of the doynges of the Ladie Marie of Scotland.

Any are the practises of Papistes and other false and hollowharted subiectes, & wonder it is what they dare do & say, as if they had the Maiestie of our Prince in contempt or did still beare them selues bold vpon the successe of some mightie treason, the bottome whereof hath not yet bene throughly searched. Of late hath bene published out of Scotland, a treatise detectyng the foule doynges of some that haue ben daungerous to our noble Quene, by which detection is induced a very excellent comparison for all Englishmen to iudge whether it be good to chaunge Quēnes or no, and therwith a necessary enforcement to euery honest man to pray hartely for the long continuaunce of our good mother to rule ouer vs, that our posteritie may not sée her place left empty for a perilous stepedame. Some caryed with Popishe affection that regardeth neither naturall Prince nor contrey, and puffed with the dropsey of a trayte-

rous humor, labour what they can to discredit the same detectiõ as vntrue. Some of them, whyle they lyke good sincere men forsoth, would fayne seme very indifferent iudges, say they will credit nothyng till they heare both parties, not remembryng that in the same one booke are both parties to be heard the one in the former parte, both in the declaration and oration of euidence: the other in the latter part, in the parties owne contractes, songes, letters, iudiciall procedynges protestations, examinations and confessions. Some other more open fellowes, say flatly that all is false, the booke hath no credit, the authour is vnknowne, obscure, the matter counterfaite, and all is nothyng. If any such rumors come to your eare, first I thinke verely in truth you may be bold to say to the partie Et tu ex illis es, thou art also one of them. And for the matter I haue thought good to enforme you of so much as I know for profe of the same treatise to be of credite, wherwith you may aunswere and stoppe the mouthes of such ru-

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mor spreaders.

The booke it selfe, with the oration of euidence, is written in Latine by a learned man of Scotland M. George Buchanan, one priuie to the procedynges of the Lordes of the Kynges secret Counsell there, well able to vnderstand and disclose the truth, hauyng easie accesse also to all the recordes of that cõtrey that might helpe hym. Besides that the booke was written by hym, not as of hym selfe, nor in hys owne name, but accordyng to the instructions to hym geuen by common conference of the Lordes of the priuie Counsel of Scotland, by him onely for hys learnyng penned, but by them the mater ministred, the booke ouerseen & allowed, and exhibited by them as mater that they haue offred and do continue in offeryng to stand to and iustifie before our soueraigne Ladie or her highnesses Commissioners in that behalfe apointed. And what proffe they haue made of it already, when they were here for that purpose, and the sayd authour of the sayd booke one among

them, when both parties or their sufficient procurators were here present indifferently to be heard, and so were heard in dede, all good subiectes may easely gather by our sayd soueraigne Ladyes procedyng sins the sayd hearyng of the cause: who no dout would neuer haue so stayed her request, but rather would haue added enforcement by ministring of aide to the Lady Marie of Scotlād, for her restitution, (the presidēt & honor of Princes, & her Maiesties own former exāple of sinceritie vsed in defense of the Scottish Quēene her selfe in Scotland against France, and her maintenance of the French Kinges honor and libertie against the hye attemptes of some his Popish subiectes, considered) nor would haue lyued in such good amitie with the yong kyng of Scotland, the Regentes, & the true Lordes mainteiners of that side, if these haynous offenses alleged on that part had not ben prouable, or if the yong Kyng had ben an vsurper, or hys Regentes and other Lordes of that faction traytors, as they must haue ben if all be false that is obiected

against

agaynſt the ſayd Ladie Marie. I re-
cite not what ſubſcriptions & aſſentes
haue ben to confirme the booke and the
maters in it conteined, Beſide that I
do you to wyte that one written copie
thereof in Latine was now vpon hys
late apprehenſion found in one of the
Duke of Norfolkes mens houſes, and
thether ſent by his commaundement
a litle before his apprehenſion to be ſe-
cretlie kept there, with diuers other
pamphelets and writynges. Whiche
thyng not onely addeth credit to this
booke that it was not counterfait, but
alſo geueth ſhrewed ſuſpicions that
the Duke could not ſo well lyke the
woman beyng ſuch a woman, as for
her perſons ſake to venture the ouer-
throw of ſuch a floriſhyng ſtate wher-
in he ſtode before, but that ſome other
greater thyng it might be that he ly-
ked, the gredyneſſe whereof myght
temper his abhorryng of ſo foule con-
ditions & of ſo great a danger to hym
ſelfe to be ſent after his predeceſſours.
The Byſhop of Roſſe lykewiſe doth
both knowe that the Duke had this
booke, and can tell how the Duke

came by it.

The other mater of the contractes, letters, longes &c. haue, among other, these proues. Liuely witnesses of great honor and credit can tell that the very casket there described was here in England shewed, the letters & other monumentes opened and exhibited, and so much as is there sayd to haue ben written or subscribed by the sayd Ladie Marie, the Erle Bothwell, or other, hath bēn by testimonies and othes of men of honor & credit of that contrey, testified and auowed in presence of persones of most honorable state and authoritie to haue ben written & subscribed as is there alleged, & so deliuered without rasure, diminution, addition, falsifieng or alteration in any point. And a number there be in England, of very good and worshypfull callyng byside the Commissioners thereto apoynted, that haue seene the originals them selues of the same handes whoes this boke doth say them to be. Whiche thinges haue been heard and vnderstoode by these that can tell, and those whoes truth

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in reportyng is aboue all exception.

Wherefore sithe the Scottishemen haue, for satisfaction of vs their good neyghbours, among whom the sayd Ladie Marie remayneth to the perill of both Princes as the Scottishmen say, published these maters, to the intent that the impudencie of the sayd Ladie Maries fautors in denyeng those truthes may not seduce English subiectes to the vndermimyng of the estate, honor, and noble procedyng of our most gracious soueraigne, and diuertyng of affections to vndue places, and to the great perill of both Realmes, which the aduersaries call beneficiall vnityng, but is in dede most maleficiall confoundyng, intended to ioyne the Realmes in other persones, excluding the person of our sayd soueraigne Lady: Let vs receiue this admonishment thankefully, and gather the frute thereof to the stablishment of our loyaltie to our owne Quéne, agaynst whom the fauorers of the other side haue banded them selues in hostilitie and treason.

This I haue thought good to write

to you for your satisfaction in knowledge of the case, whom I know alreadie sufficiently satisfied in good and dutifull affection. God disclose these hollow hartes, or rather God graunt her Maiestie, and those that be in authoritie vnder her, an earnest will to see them, for they will disclose them selues fast enough. And God send her Maiestie so to remoue the groundes of her perill, that not onely we which by open thrusting our selues against her enemyes haue set vp our rest vpon our Quéene Elizabeth, and shall neuer be admitted to fauour on the other side, but also all wise and honest mẽ may know that it shalbe safe to be true, & daungerous to be false. Otherwise the mischief is euident. For men in nature and in policie will seke for their own safeties, which if they may not finde in truth, it is a great auauncement of falsehode. God long preserue our good & gracious Quene Elizabeth, and make her enemyes know that there is sure peril in treason, and her true subiectes bold to sticke to her without dread of any reuenge or displeasure, So fare ye well.

For further proofe that the sayd letters written by the said Ladie Marie & mentioned in the sayde booke are not counterfait but her owne, I haue herewith also sent you the most autentike testimonie of the three estates of Scotland assembled in parliamēt. The copie of which acte you shall receiue word for worde as it was enacted in Scotlād in Decēber 1567. & remaineth publikely in print, sauyng that I haue for your more easy vnderstāding changed ẏ Scotish orthography, which I would to God had been done for Englishmēs better satisfaction in Maister George Buchnans boke. Howbeit the same is not so hard but that after ẏ readyng of two leaues a man may easily enough grow acquainted with it, and doutlesse the knowlege & monumētes therin cōtained are wel worth so small a trauell to vnderstand them.

*The Scottishe act of Parliament.*

Touching the retention of our soueraine Lordes mothers persone.

ITem touching the article propounded by the Earles, Lordes, & other Noble men, who toke armes at Carbarie hill, vpon the xv. day of June last bypast, & touching their con-

uenynges of before, and of the cause of the apprehension of the Quæne mother to our soueraigne Lord: And whether the sayd Noble men, and others which toke armes of before her sayd apprehension, and which ioyned with them, & assisted them at that tyme, or any wayes sence, haue done the dutie of Noble men, good, & true subiectes of this realme, & no wayes offended, nor transgressed the lawes in that effect, or any thyng dependyng therupon, either preceding, or following the same.

Our soueraigne Lord, with aduise of my Lord Regēt, and thre estates, & whole body of this present Parliamēt, hath found, declared, & concluded, & by this present Act findeth, declareth, and concludeth, that the cause & occasion of the conuētions, & messages of the sayd Earles, Lordes, Noble men, Barons, & others faythfull & true subiectes, and consequently, their takyng of armes, & comming to the fieldes with open and displayed baners, & the cause & occasiō of the taking of the sayd Quænes person, vpon the sayd xv. day of June last bypast, & holdyng, & deteinyng of the same within the houses & Fortalice of

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Lochleum, continually, sence presently, & in all tyme cõmyng, & generally all other things inuẽted, spoken, written, or done by them, or any of them to that effect, sence the x. day of Febr. last bypast, vpon the which day, ỹ late Henry Kyng, then the sayd Quœnes lawfull husbãd, & our soueraigne Lord the Kynges dearest father, was treasonablie, shamefully, & horriblie murthered, vnto the day & date of this present Act, & in all tymes to come, touchyng the sayd Quœne, and deteinyng of her person: That the cause & all things dependyng thereon, or that any wayes may perteine therto, ỹ interniss̃iõ, or disponyng vpõ her propertie, casualities, or whatsoeuer thyng perteyning, or that any wayes might perteyne to her, was in the sayd Quœnes own default, in so far as by diuers her prinie letters written wholly with her own hãd, and sent by her to Iames somtyme Earle of Bothwell, chief executor of the sayd horrible murther, aswell before the committing therof, as therafter, and by her vngodly, & dishonorable procedyng to a pretẽded mariage with him, so-

dainly, & vnprouiſedly therafter, it is moſt certain, ỳ ſhe was priuie, airt, & part, of the actual deuiſe, & dede of the foreſaid murther, of the king her lawfull huſbād, & father to our ſoueraigne Lord, cōmitted by the ſaid Iames, ſomtime Earle of Bothwell, his complices, and partakers. And therfore iuſtly deſcrueth what ſocuer hath ben done to her in any time bygone, or that ſhalbe vſed towardes her, for the ſayd cauſe in time cōming, which ſhalbe vſed by aduiſe of the Nobilitie, in reſpect, that our ſayd ſoueraigne Lordes mother, with the ſayd Iames, ſometime Earle of Bothwell, yeid about by indirect and coloured meanes, to colour, and hold backe the knowlege of the truth of the committers of the ſayd crime. Yet all men in their hartes were fully perſwaded, of the authors & deuiſers of that miſchieuous, and vnworthie fact, awaityng while God ſhould moue the hartes of ſome to enter in the quarell, for reuengyng of the ſame. And in the meane time, a great part of the Nobilitie, vpō iuſt feare to be hādled, & demeaned in ſemblable maner, as ỳ Kyng had ben

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of before: perceiuyng also ỹ Quæne so thrall, & so blindly affectionate to the priuate appetite of that tyrãne, & that both he, & she had cõspired together such horrible crueltie, being therw̃ all garnished with a cõpanie of vngodly, & vitious persõs, ready to accomplish all their vnlawful commaundementes, of whõ he had a sufficiẽt nõber, continually awaytyng vpõ him, for the same effect, all noble & vertuous men abhorryng their tyrannie, & companie, but chiefly suspecting, that they, who had so treasonablie put downe, & distroyed the Father, should make the innocent Prince, his onely sonne, & the principall, & almost onely comfort, sent by God to this afflicted natiõ, to tast of the same cup (as the many inuẽted purposes to passe where he was, & also where the noble men were in) by their open confession gaue sufficiẽt warnyng & declaratiõ, where through the sayd Earles, Lordes, Barons, & others faythful, & true subiectes taking armes, or otherwayes whatsoeuer ioynyng, and assisting in the sayd action, & in ỹ sayd conuẽtions, displaying baners, & commyng to the fieldes,

takyng & reteinyng of ỳ Quéenes per-
ſon, aſwell in tymes bypaſt, as hereaf-
ter, & all others that haue therafter, or
ſhall in any time cõming adioyne to
them, and all things done by them or
any of them, touching that cauſe, and
all other things depending thereon, or
that any wayes may appertaine ther-
to, the intromiſſion, or diſponing vpõ
her propertie, or caſualties, or whatſo-
euer other thinges perteining, or any
wayes might apperteine to her, was
in default of her ſelfe, and the ſayde
Iames ſometime Earle of Bothwell,
& by the horrible and cruel murther
of our ſayd ſoueraigne Lordes late
deareſt Father, conſpired, deuiſed,
committed, counſeled, and colou-
red by them, & not cõdignely puniſht
accoꝛding to the Lawes, &c.

*This Act with the reſt is thus ſubſcribed in the Scottiſh booke*. Extractũ de libro actorũ Parlamenti per me Iacobum Makgill de Rankelour nether Clericum rotulorum Regiſtri ac conſilij S. D. N. Regis ſub meis ſigno & ſubſcriptione manualibus. *Iacobus Makgill.* And is imprinted at Edinburgh by Robert Lekpreuik Printer to the kings maieſtie the vi. day of Aprill, in the yeare of God. 1568.

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